JANUARY 2026

ITS ALL SNOVER

Happy New Year? Seems a bit too late to say that. January has come (and gone) and the big event of the season was the snowstorm. Boston experienced about 18 inches of snowfall and freezing temps for tow weeks afterwards, leaving the snow to pile up everywhere. And wouldn't you guess it, it was us at 311 who had to take the brunt of the anger for a botched job none of us were a part of. When we had our monthly recap they said in that one week we got as many calls as we do in a month, just to contextualize it. So if a plow didn't do a great job or people were frustrated there was still snow on their street, we were the ears that were made to hear it. Thankfully, we have overcome the worst of it proven by the fact I am currently writing this while on the clock at home. Management did seem receptive of our complaints, and honestly they've been pretty screwed over as well it seems. One funny trait we have here in Boston is the use of space savers, or placing objects in the parking spot in order to reserve them. Technically, these are only allowed until 48 hours after the storm. Sadly, men are not angels and we need the government to come in and take them. You may have guessed it, but this response was pretty poor as well. One dude even got stabbed over a dispute, and owners of the savers are liable to leave a harsh note at best, or cause some property damage at worse. This is all to say I am not as much a fan of the snow as I used to be. Besides that, things are well. Shortly I will be visiting Minnesota to partake in the annual Dells All Inclusive Trip, which will be a needed break.

Oscars

Most of you know I would consider myself a movie watcher, and this year I've decided to watch every Best Picture nominee this year, and a few more. I've been watching them weekly with another good friend Riya (hello Riya when you read this). So far, we've made it through around half the list. We seem to agree on a lot of the rankings, so I can act like my opinions hold weight. Anyways, here are my opinions on what we've watched (NB still need to watch F1, Train Dreams, and Sentimental Value):

You all have already head my thoughts on this

If I had a vote I'd pick Bugonia. They do a great job at making you feel uneasy the whole time and executes its premise well. I particularly enjoyed the camerawork that made you feel like you were there creeping on what's going on, and you will either love or hate the ending, if it wasn't obvious I'm on team love.

Frankenstein did not grip me at all. Really didn't add anything too interesting, basic retelling of Frankenstein with daddy issues that felt uninspired especially compared to Del Toro's other monsters. Weakest of the bunch,

Hamnet wasn't groundbreaking but executed quite well. Child actors were pretty good which you have to commend considering the gamble they can be. I feel that portrayals of grief can often be bait for Oscar nominations but damn it was a good performance.

The Secret Agent is the movie I'd most want to rewatch. Opposed to Hamnet, I wish I had read more about this movie before I watched it. Lots of depth I think I didn't fully appreciate but the long run time makes me a bit hesitant to go back.

One Battle After Another was a good time. I do think that the political messaging fell a bit flat but it's always good to see a blockbuster having a story that is directly making fun of what the current administration is doing.

I don't think I fully appreciated Sinners. I think it was wrong to go into it expecting a horror movie as it's much more than that, but the movie ultimately concludes with the "epic" vampire fight that was a bit of a let down compared to the rest of the movie. I am def willing to be wrong about this.

No Other Choice was fucking snubbed. I loved it, pacing was great, and the comedy as well with the darker themes it was grappling with. 100% deserves a nomination more than Frankenstein, and would be my vote if it was in. Great designs, acting, the ending was great; this was def my favorite film of the year and if you are gonna watch any movie mentioned here I will say go watch No Other Choice.